

REMARKS

Claims 2-5 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is canceled; claims 2 and 3 are amended; and claims 4 and 5 are added. Support for the amendments may be found, for example, in Fig. 3 and in the corresponding portion of the specification. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and prompt allowance in view of at least the following remarks.

I. Personal Interview

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representatives by Examiner Sung at the personal interview held September 24 are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below, which constitute Applicants' separate record of the interview.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,054,936 to Fraden (hereinafter "Fraden"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Regarding claim 2, Fraden fails to teach a "reflective screen being arranged underneath the membrane, in contact with the absorbing element of the membrane," as recited in claim 2. During the personal interview, the Examiner agreed that Fraden merely teaches a reflective surface as the reflective inner surface 60 of the cover 59, as shown in Fig. 6, and that the cover 60 is not disposed underneath the sensor 58. Because Fraden fails to teach a reflecting screen arranged underneath a membrane, Fraden fails to teach all of the features of claim 2.

Thus, for at least this reason, independent claim 2 is patentable over Fraden. As claim 1 is canceled and claim 3 depends from claim 2, the rejection to claim 1 is moot and claim 3 is patentable in view of the patentability of claim 2. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

III. New Claims

By this Amendment, new claims 4 and 5 are presented. As Fraden fails to teach a reflective screen arranged underneath a membrane, for the reasons discussed above in regards to claim 2, Fraden fails to teach a "reflective screen being arranged underneath the membrane, in contact with the absorbing element of the membrane," as recited in claim 4.

As claim 5 depends from claim 4, claim 5 is patentable over Fraden for at least the reason discussed above, as well as for the additional features it recites.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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